

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer based multi-channel radio system, comprising:
 - a computer coupled to a display and having a graphical user interface; and
 - a radio receiver coupled to the computer for selectively receiving a plurality of channels and data associated with the plurality of channels, wherein the graphic user interface selectively displays at least a portion of the data associated with the plurality of channels and wherein the data associated with the plurality of channels is simultaneously updated.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises at least one among a volume control, a tone control, and an output port on the radio receiver, wherein the output port can selectively stream data or audio or video from a selected channel among the plurality of channels.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the graphic user interface further comprises a program to selectively tag a desired type of content among the plurality of channels, analyze the data associated with the plurality of channels for an indication of content of the desired type among the plurality of channels, and alert a user of a desired channel containing the indication.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the user is alerted by a pop-up window of the desired content on the desired channel.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein updates for the data associated with the plurality of channels recur in rapid succession.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface enables the simultaneous viewing of at least two among a plurality of channel numbers, a plurality of

artist names, a plurality of song titles, a plurality of channel names, a plurality of categories, and a plurality of use percentages.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the graphical user interface enables the viewing of signal strength of a signal received from at least one among a satellite signal and a terrestrial signal.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the data associated with the plurality of channels is extracted from a broadcast information channel received at the radio receiver as one of the plurality of channels.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the data associated with the plurality of channels is extracted from a plurality of tuners performing background scanning among the plurality of channels to create a broadcast information channel.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the radio receiver is selected among a satellite digital audio receiver, a multi-channel digital FM receiver, and a multi-channel digital AM receiver.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a global network connection.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the computer controls the radio receiver.

13. A computer based multi-channel radio, comprising:

- a radio receiver for receiving a plurality of channels and data associated with the plurality of channels over-the-air;

- a channel decoder coupled to the radio receiver; and

- a port for transmitting data associated with the plurality of channels, transmitting an output signal representative of a selected channel among the plurality of channels,

and for receiving control signals from a computer having a graphical user interface, wherein the graphic user interface selectively displays at least a portion of the data associated with the plurality of channels and user selectively controls the channel decoder by selecting the selected channel on the graphical user display.

14. The radio of claim 13, wherein the data associated with the plurality of channels is extracted from a broadcast information channel received at the radio receiver as one of the plurality of channels.

15. The radio of claim 13, wherein the data associated with the plurality of channels is extracted from a plurality of tuners in the radio performing background scanning among the plurality of channels.

16. A method of representing a plurality of channels on a display, comprising the steps of:

- extracting data associated with each channel in the plurality of channels;
- enabling the selective display of the data associated with each of the plurality of channels on a graphical user interface; and
- selectively controlling a remotely coupled channel decoder on a radio receiver via the graphical user interface.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of enabling the selective display of the data comprises the step of simultaneously displaying at least two among a plurality of channel numbers, a plurality of artist names, a plurality of song titles, a plurality of channel names, a plurality of categories, and a plurality of use percentages.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the graphical user interface includes a plurality of selectable tabs to enable the viewing of a plurality of channels belonging to predetermined categories selected from the group of categories including all, music,

news, talk, last 10, favorites, traffic, weather, video, rock, classical, jazz, kids, comedy, and user customizable.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the method further comprises extracting a signal strength measurement from the radio receiver and displaying the measurement on a screen of the graphical user interface.

20. A method of displaying a group of selected channels among a plurality channels, comprising the steps of:

- controlling a remote source for receiving a digitally encoded bit stream on at least a portion of the plurality of channels and decoding a selected channel among the plurality of channels;

- selectively displaying data associated with each of the plurality of channels on a graphical user interface;

- updating the data associated with the plurality of channels in a rapid recurring succession; and

- enabling the output of the selected channel as represented by the graphical user interface.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises the step of selectively tagging a desired type of content on the selected channel by analyzing a broadcast information channel and/or an Electronic Program Guide for an indication of content of the desired type among the plurality of channels.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of alerting a user of a desired channel containing the indication.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of tagging further comprises the step of storing descriptors representative of the content on the selected channel in a memory.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of selectively displaying data associated with each of the plurality of channels comprises simultaneously displaying data associated with at least two of the plurality of channels

25. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

- extracting data associated with each channel in the plurality of channels;
- enabling the selective display of the data associated with each of the plurality of channels on a graphical user interface;
- selectively controlling a remotely coupled channel decoder on a radio receiver via the graphical user interface.

26. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

- controlling a remote source for receiving a digitally encoded bit stream on at least a portion of the plurality of channels and decoding a selected channel among the plurality of channels;
- selectively displaying data associated with each of the plurality of channels on a graphical user interface;
- updating the data associated with the plurality of channels in a rapid recurring succession; and
- enabling the output of the selected channel as represented by the graphical user interface.